2015 Ignite Youth Conference: ONE. Life

24 – 27 September 2015 Brisbane

REPORT

“In all, the conference was dynamite”

An ignition of Spirits!

WHY?
Because while the school community ‘down tools’ (Term 3 holiday break), sixteen (16) of the Youth Ministry Students and staff were on their pilgrimage to Brisbane to join what organisers say, is the largest youth gathering in Australia (over 1,300) all under one roof.

The four days of developing the Youth of Australia, lived up to its name - IGNITE in myriad of ways.

1. It provided meaningful and spiritual development to all who attended,
2. There were streams for children, students and adults - Ignite Central (Adults), Year 11-12, 9-10 & 7-8 (Ignite High) and Ignite Kids.
3. It provided a platform and an opportunity for life-long friendship building, faith study, and Rally (Praise and Worship).
4. It was an inclusive gathering and well supported by various partners, ministries, local musicians and student artists.

All the students and staff received, witnessed and encountered something divine in the midst of hundreds upon hundreds of different walks of lives.
These were evident as the journey unfolded. The theme was ONE. Life and evangelisation became part of the day to day conversations. There were 30 scripture readings for each day following Ignite Conference; however we are providing 10 for your reading. Meanwhile please join us on this journey of a lifetime....

...AND SO HERE IS OUR STORY....
DEPARTURE FROM DARWIN
A ‘red eye’ flight to Brisbane greeted the contingent and everyone was eagerly waiting with varying feelings for what lays ahead. Soon a group meeting was called by Miss Hives and Mr Katal to distribute personalised JOURNALS and go through final instructions.

BRISBANE
DAY 1 – Thursday 24th Sept.
We were greeted by familiar and friendly faces – members of the National Evangelisation Team (N.E.T.) representatives who visited our College during the year. We were soon dropped at the accommodation via a quick grocery shop and healthy breakfast.

The team was soon settled, with some lost sleep caught up and then ready for the first session that afternoon through to 10:00pm.

The 2015 theme, ‘ONE. Life’ was very fitting because it enforced our Colleges Motto; “Make Us One in Christ”.

It expanded further to our accommodation at St Eugene College where their Values were: Speak Respectfully, Act Respectfully, Act Safely and Hands & Body to Self.
The Conference venue was Mueller Performing Arts Centre (5 stories high building) on the grounds of Mueller College; the name was same as the street our College is situated on.

The Rally and Keynote Speakers quickly got everyone into some soul searching, ready for the Workshops and Lectures. To say everyone quickly adapted positively to the opportunity will be an understatement, because the experience had its place in each individual’s heart. They truly lived up to an Australian “World Youth Day” feel under the Southern Cross”.

**DAY 2 – Friday 25th Sept**

Day 2 saw the Morning Rally being ignited by the sound of “In my wrestling in my doubts, In my failure You won’t walk out etc... “MY LIGHT HOUSE” song... The NT Mob sang in tune from start to finish, with all the arm ACTIONS that goes with the song. The song lyrics were included in the NT Mob’s Journal to learn. It was indeed a sight to see and to appreciate.
The above table was claimed by the NT Mob and was very well respected by other participants. It was a garden setting whereby participants can relax whilst waiting for their next sessions during the breaks. Briefly, the late finish and early starts had its impact however, the dividend received by members was priceless…it was life changing from start to finish. After the end of each evening’s PD, the group had a briefing. This involved a round table discussion and gave an opportunity for each member to share their day’s blessing.

**DAY 3 – Saturday 26th Sept**
Everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit that night, and the exposure of the Blessed Sacrament took its place right in the middle of the Conference hall, after a huge Mass was celebrated by the Arch Bishop of Brisbane before his departure to the USA to join Bishop Eugene. Mercy and Your Grace Holy Spirit echoed through the auditorium as Emanuel Worship led everyone. The air was so still, one could hear a needle drop in this huge double staged Theatre, because of the depth of respect offered during this sacred moment. When the song “Holy Spirit come with fire and with love” followed with a (medley) of Amazing Grace (Broken Vessels)...there were a lot of mixed emotions. The NT Mob was also sharing and healing internally, and took part in either Reconciliation or Prayer Ministries (for healing and other needs).

**DAY 4 – Sunday 27th Sept**
This was the final day when the NT Mob vacated our accommodation and took with us to the final day of conferencing our personal gear. These were kindly packed into a trailer by the N.E.T. representative. Many ideas learnt, long-lasting friendships made and happy/memorable times gained. Everyone attended the Morning Rally as well the afternoon closing Mass, celebrated by Bishop of Brisbane and other Brother Priests. The significance of the final Mass was when a huge triangle structure was slowly filled by up by smaller triangles containing **ONE** word to describe the ‘before’ and the ‘after’ feeling of that person. During Small Groups, leaders selected a person to represent them, which took place after the Holy Communion. The NT Mob was represented by Mr John Katal and the message was; Before: **LOVE**, After: **BURN**.
FIRST 10 OUT OF 30 SCRIPTURES
1. Isaiah 53
2. Matthew 1:18-25

SOME “QUOTES” FROM STUDENTS
“Life changing”, “None-Judgemental…all for Jesus”, “Inspiring”, “Awesome”,
“So Healing”, “Feel the Spirit moving in me”, “Everyone was very friendly”, “Loved it”,
“Speechless”, “I had tears of joy and reverend during all Rallies and Mass”,
“So peaceful…I can forget all my worries”,
“Loved how we bonded together”, “Will go back in 2016”, “I learnt that I can be myself”
“The Theme ONE. Faith came alive”, “An experience of a lifetime”.

LOOKING AHEAD
A member of our team (an ex. O’Loughlin student) has taken the LEAP OF FAITH and joined the National Evangelisation Team (N.E.T) to be a part of an exciting year in 2016. God’s REVELATION is the 2016 Ignite Youth Conference will be held again in Brisbane from 22-25 September. 2016 will see our first group of Y12 Youth Ministry students since it started. Ignite Youth Ministry is definitely developing through our College.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- First and foremost – Thanking GOD for our existence, safe travels and injury free return home.
- O’Loughlin Catholic College & Religious Education Faculty for giving everyone the opportunity to attend.
- All the parents & care givers for entrusting us with their children,
- All the participants for making the choice to attend Ignite Youth Conference 2015,
- Miss Hives, Mr Katal and Didi (ex-student, working with the Darwin Diocesan Youth Coordinator) for their patience, understanding and care given to the group.
- St Eugene College for your kind generosity in letting us use your College for accommodation – Trish McGuiigan the school contact.
- Holy Family Primary, again for the Father’s Day Breakfast opportunity for fundraising needed funds for students to attend.
- The N.E.T. Team for looking after the contingent in Brisbane with the driving,

God Bless,
THE 2015 IGNITE TEAM